

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 313997
ORIGIN AF-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, NI, US

SUBJECT: FESTAC DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LAGOS 14130

1. PARTICIPANTS: JEFF DONALDSON SIGNED CU DRAFTED LETTER OF AGREEMENT DECEMBER 28 TO SEND 252 PARTICIPANTS ABOARD CAPITAL AIRLINES CHARTER DEPARTING NEW YORK ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 12.

2. VIP ATTENDANCE: INVITATIONS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES RICHARDSON AND SCHAUFLE RECEIVED DECEMBER 29. AF/W CONTACTED DAMBATTATTA AT NIGERIAN EMBASSY DEC. 30. HE CLAIMED TO BE UNAWARE OF HOW PRECISELY VIP INVITATIONS WERE BEING DELIVERED ALTHOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD THAT REP. ANDREW YOUNG AND ATLANTA MAYOR MAYNARD JACKSON HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECEIVED THEIRS. HE PROMISED TO CHECK WITH AMB. SANU AND PROVIDE COMPLETE LIST OF VIP INVITATIONS ASAP.

3. VISAS: DAMBATTATTA WAS RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE "GUESTIMATE" OF NUMBER US TRAVELERS TO FESTAC BUT HOPED TO BE ABLE PROVIDE NUMBER BY END FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY (REPORTS FROM

CONSULTATES ON VISAS ISSUED AND APPLICATIONS FROM TRAVEL AGENCIES ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THEN).

4. VIP VISITOR TIMING: ASKED THE MOST DESIRABLE TIMING FOR VIP VISITORS TO ATTEND FESTAC, DAMBATTSA SAID BULK OF FOREIGN VIPS EXPECTED LAGOS FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY. SPECIAL DURBAR SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 5 IN KADUNA FOR VIPS ONLY WOULD BE HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES. DURBAR FOR GENERAL PUBLIC WOULD BE FEB. 8. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CONFIRMATION AND/OR COMMENT ON FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY BEING BEST TIME FOR VIPS TO PLAN ON ATTENDING FESTAC. FYI HAVE LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCE PRESIDENT MOBUTU MAY VISIT IN FEB. 4-8 TIMEFRAME. END
FYI

ROBINSON

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